

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Summerfield Benson House Inventory Number: AA-111
Address: 1417 West Nursery Road City: Linthicum Zip Code: 21090
County: Anne Arundel USGS Topographic Map: Relay
Owner: Charles E. Sachs; John Sachs Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes
Tax Parcel Number: 7 Tax Map Number: 4A, Gri Tax Account ID Number: 13874000
Project: Baltimore-Washington Maglev Amtrak Agency: MTA
Site visit by MHT staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes Name of District: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐ yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT-Anne Arundel County Survey, 1975; and Anne Arundel Planning Office Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

This imposing two-and-one-half-story, five-bay Colonial Revival/American Foursquare-style brick dwelling is vacant and overgrown. Constructed of common-bond brick, it features an ornamental band of basketweave bond around the top of the second floor between the windows. The house has square massing and a distinctive pyramidal hipped roof covered in slate, with a deep, dentiled cornice and central, hip-roofed, slate-sided front and rear dormers containing paired four-over-four-light vinyl windows. Three chimneys protrude from the roof. The second floor has two-over-two vinyl replacement windows, but the first floor door and window openings are boarded over. The windows have plain stone sills, and hinges on the windowframes indicate that all of the windows once had shutters. Across the front of the house is a full-width one-story front porch with a hipped roof, slightly battered brick piers with belt courses marking their bases, and low, solid brick balustrades. On the right side of the house is a two-story hexagonal bay window, and on the left side of the house, at the rear behind the stairwell windows, is a pair of round-arched door openings. The interior of the house could not be viewed, but reportedly it retains lavish Late Victorian woodwork and other original details.

Adjacent to the south rear corner of the house is a one-story, side-gabled, oblong, five-bay multipurpose outbuilding. The building has a fieldstone north section, which is one bay wide and set lower than the frame south end of the building. A large, empty double window or door opening, set just above ground level, is set into the center of the stone front wall. There is an attic

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐
Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

MHT Comments CONSIDER ELIGIBLE FOR PURPOSES OF THE PRESENT UNDERTAKING - FINAL EVALUATION REQUIRES INTERIOR ACCESS.

Andrew Lewis
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

B. Kuntz
Reviewer, NR Program

10/18/02
Date
8/15/03
Date

Summerfield Benson House

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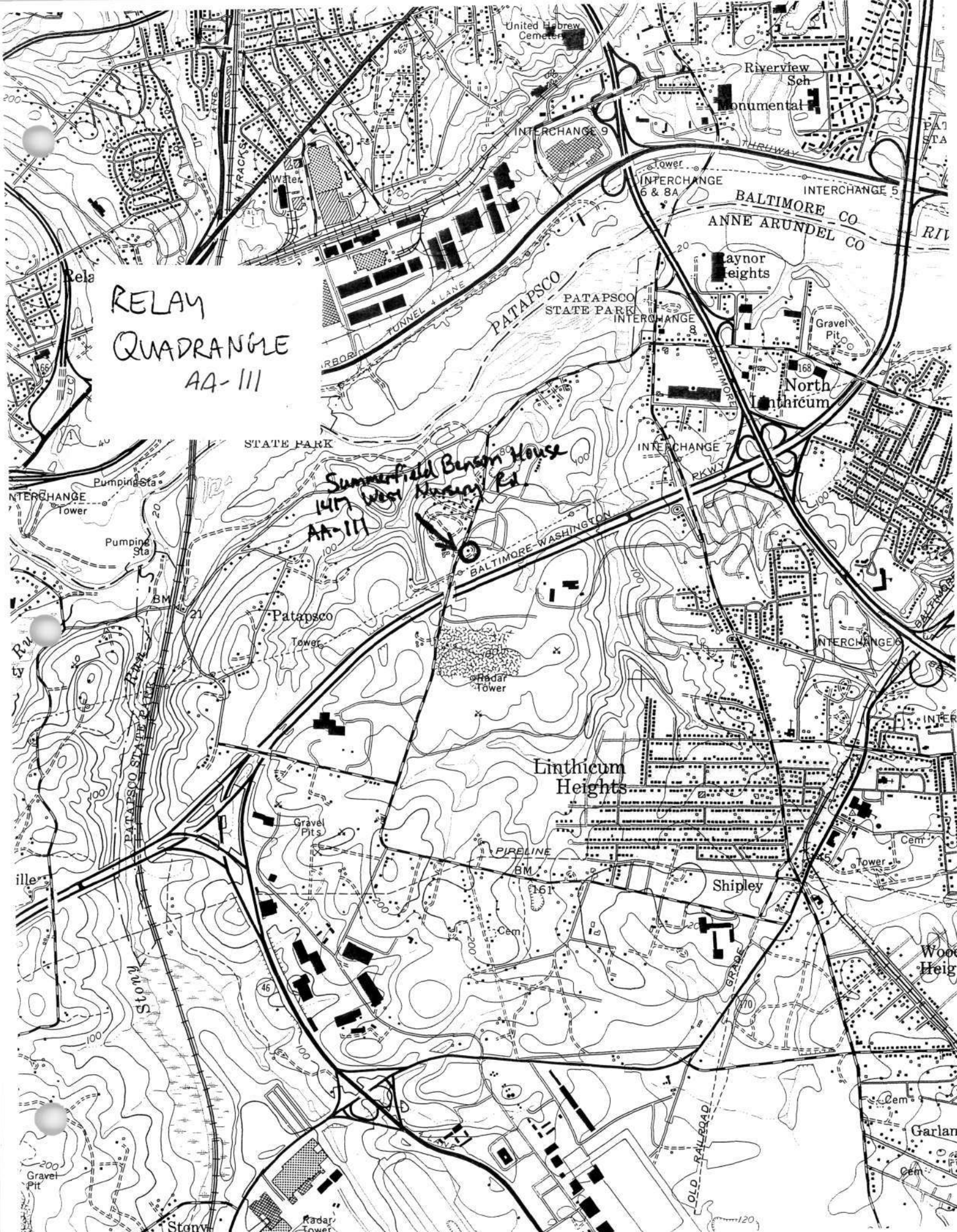
with a gable window above this area, and wooden cupboards and bins inside the first floor suggest that its last use was food storage. However, it may also have been a creamery at one time, given its sunken floor and stone walls. A single, mid-twentieth-century two-panel door adjacent to the stone section provides access to it. To the right of this door is the main section of the frame building, featuring a center pair of two-panel doors flanked by single windows. The floor of this section is at least a foot higher than the stone section. Its purpose is unclear, but it appears to have been used as a shop or shed. The building appears to be too shallow to have been used as a carriage house or wagon shed, as suggested in Anne Arundel County Planning Office files. Its date is uncertain, and the stone section may predate the frame portion. Considerable alterations have taken place, as the building is now sheathed in vinyl clapboard siding, and the windows were replaced with six-over-six vinyl sash.

Summerfield Benson was the son of Basil Smith Benson, who owned a farm called "Lockwood" (this house still stands southwest of the Summerfield Benson House, below the Baltimore-Washington Parkway). The Bensons were a prominent local family, and Summerfield married his cousin Laura Shipley. Basil Benson died in 1884, leaving his large farm to his two youngest sons, Summerfield and Joseph. In 1888, the brothers divided the property and Summerfield constructed this house on his portion within the next few years. There is no evidence that Summerfield ever resided in the house, although a Fannie C. Benson was living there in 1896. The property was used as a truck farm from the beginning, and there were seven outbuildings, a picker house, and four tenant houses besides the main house in 1896. The Bensons and their three daughters made their home in nearby Linthicum Heights, where he died in 1934, still in possession of his farm. Some of the property was taken when the Baltimore-Washington Parkway was built a short distance south of the house complex. In more recent years, much of the farmland was used as a junkyard, the remaining outbuildings were taken down, and only the house and one adjacent outbuilding survive. At present, most of the farm is being converted to a large industrial or office complex, but the house and outbuilding and their surrounding grounds are to be rehabilitated and maintained as part of a catering establishment.

Although this was once an elegant estate farmhouse, its setting is compromised by the construction of the Parkway, impending development of the surrounding land, and loss of the farm context and outbuildings. However, most of the building's original materials appear to be intact, and it retains considerable exterior integrity. It is a good example of an eclectic architectural style known as Neo-Rational. It is the home of an important Anne Arundel County family, but perhaps more significant as a vestige of the prosperous truck farming that drove much of the local economy until World War II. The Summerfield Benson House is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C.

Prepared by: Kate Farnham, John Milner AssociatesDate Prepared: 9/6/2002

RELAY
QUADRANGLE
AA-111





MI E PROPERTIES, INC.
LEASE
(410) 788-0100

AA-111

Summerfield Benson House
Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien
July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

overview of property from north
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Summerfield Benson House
Anne Arundel Co., MD

Elizabeth O'Brien

July 19, 2002

MD SHPO

View from Old Nursery Rd.
from NW

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Summerfield Benson House, 1417 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Kate Farnham

September 2002

MD SHPD

View to SE of west front corner

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Summerfield Benson House, 1417 W. Nursery Rd, Linthicum
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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View to S of front facade

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Summerfield Benson House, 1417 W. Nursery Rd, Linthicum
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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View to SW of NE front corner

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Summerfield Benson House, 1417 W. Nursery Rd, Linthicum
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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View to NW of arched doorways near SE corner

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Summerfield Benson House, 1417 W. Nursery Rd, Linthicum
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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View to NE of south (rear) facade and W side, showing
side bay window

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AA-III

Summerfield Benson House, 1417 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

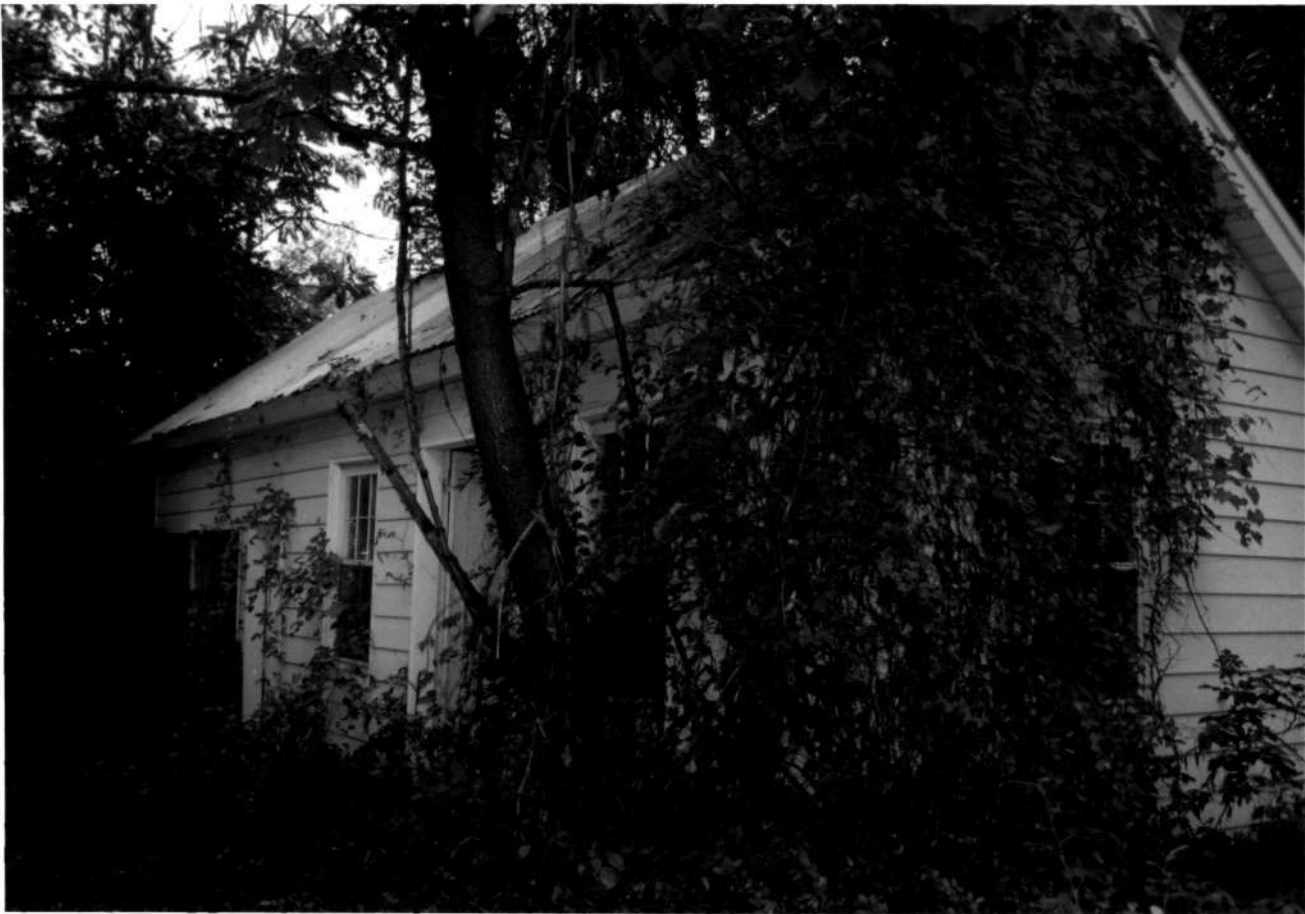
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Detail of SE corner brickwork + cornice looking NE

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Summerfield Benson House, 1417 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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Outbuilding SE of house, view to NE

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Summerfield Benson House, 1417 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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Outbuilding SE of house, front facade view looking East

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Summerfield Benson House, 1417 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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MD SHPO

Outbuilding SE of house, stone north section, view to SE.

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0201115604
AA-3-L-a
(map 1)
(111)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

AA-111

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON: Summerfield Benson House					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: East side of West Nursery Road, just north of Baltimore - Washington					
CITY OR TOWN: Parkway near Linthicum Heights					
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Anne Arundel			
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		OWNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Both		STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Edward Sachs					
STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 West Nursery Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Linthicum Heights		STATE: Maryland		21290	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Anne Arundel County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER: Annapolis, Md.					
CITY OR TOWN: Map #4, AD #5, Parcel #230, Liber/folio # WNW 40/323		STATE:			
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:			

AA-111

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in a grove of trees near the Linthicum Truck Company is this large, 2-story, brick house. The building dates from the late 19th or early 20th century. It has a square plan with a hip-roof. The front faces north with a distant view of the Baltimore Skyline.

The front (north) elevation has 5 evenly spaced openings. The entrance is in the center under an open porch of recent date. The house is two rooms deep with a wide projecting semi-hexagonal bay on the first floor west side.

The house has unusual brick details. Small pinwheel patterns are formed with the bricks and these are found between the windows on the front elevation and along the side walls. The house has a deep, bracketed cornice, louvred shutters and tall 4/4 pane windows.

On the east side of the house is a small frame barn, or stable, with fieldstone foundations.

The house and yard around it appear to be well-maintained. The remainder of the property, however, is a junk car lot.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

AA-111

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF ~~NOMINATED~~ PROPERTY: 120 acres

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Amy Hiatt

ORGANIZATION

Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE

August 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:

Arundel Center

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature



AR
///

... AA-3-L-a
(map 1)

Summerfield - Benson
House

north elevation

Amhiatt 1975